

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 179887

10 S
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EUR-12 PM-04 EB-07 AID-05 NSC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 SP-02 INR-07 /068 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:DBARCHARD:MRC
APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS
ASIA/SA:RWBECKMAN

----- 083972

R 210125Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179887

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, EAID, MASS, BG, US

SUBJECT: BDG INTEREST IN HELICOPTERS
REF: STATE 170069, 170354, AND DACCA 3635
1. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT, WHILE BDG INTEREST IN US HELICOP-
TERS CONTINUES, THEY ARE STILL RESISTING HAVING TO LAY OUT
ANY CASH FOR COMMERCIAL PURCHASE OF THEM NOW. INSTEAD, THE
BDG SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO FIND A LOOPHOLE IN AID'S POLICY
THROUGH WHICH THEY CAN PERSUADE US TO PROVIDE HELICOPTER
SERVICES OUT OF DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS. IN THIS CONTEXT,
ECON MINISTER KARIM PHONED LAST WEEK TO REQUEST THAT USG
SEND 6 BELL 212 HELICOPTERS WITH CREWS AND TWO YEARS
SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS TO BD TO HELP COPE WITH CURRENT
SERIOUS FLOODS. KARIM SAID REQUEST WAS IN LINE WITH
PROMISE AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER MADE TO ADMIRAL KHAN TO
PROVIDE HELICOPTER SUPPORT DURING DISASTER SITUATIONS
(REF TEL B). ARCHARD READ KARIM RELEVANT SECTION OF REFTEL
AND POINTED OUT THAT, AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, SITUATION IN
WHICH PARKER HAD ENVISIONED US ARRANGING PROVISION OF
HELICOPTER SERVICES WOULD BE GENUINE DISASTERS OF LIMITED
DURATION AND CERTAINLY NOT ANYTHING APPROACHING TWO YEARS
AS REQUEST IMPLIED. IN ADDITION, ARCHARD SAID, HE HAD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 179887

RECEIVED NOTHING FROM DACCA WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT

CURRENT FLOODING WAS REALLY SERIOUS. KARIM FEIGNED SURPRISE THAT WE WERE NOT BETTER INFORMED AND REPLIED THAT SITUATION

WAS SERIOUS ENOUGH THAT BDG HAD APPROACHED EMBASSY IN DACCA WITH NEW HELICOPTER REQUEST AT SOME TIME AFTER JULY 12. THIS, HE SAID, DEPT. SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED BY THIS TIME. ARCHARD PROMISED TO LOOK FOR REQUEST, WHICH IF EXTANT, HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED TO DATE.

2. ARCHARD ASKED KARIM ABOUT POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF BELL 212S WHICH, HE UNDERSTOOD, WAS CURRENTLY BEING NEGOTIATED IN LONDON. KARIM AT FIRST CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF DEAL BUT LATER LET SLIP THAT HE WAS AWARE OF DETAILS. ARCHARD SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED AS KARIM'S REQUEST SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT DEAL HAD FALLEN THROUGH. THIS WAS UNFORTUNATE, HE CONTINUED, IN THAT UNDER OUR CURRENT AID GUIDELINES, WHICH SHOW NO SIGNS OF CHANGING, US CANNOT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR HELICOPTERS EXCEPT IN SHORT TERM-DISASTER RELIEF CONTEXT.

3. AFTER RECEIPT OF REF C, ARCHARD RELAYED SUBSTANCE TO KARIM WHO CLAIMED SURPRISE, THEN QUICKLY CONCEDED THAT THE FLOOD EMERGENCY WAS OVER AND THAT THE REQUEST SHOULD BE CANCELLED. HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE BDG WILL CONTINUE LOOKING INTO ACQUISITION OF HELICOPTERS FOR ROUTINE USE. ARCHARD THEN REPEATED OFFER, MADE TWO WEEKS EARLIER TO KABIR, AND NOT ACTED UPON, THAT HE AND BD EMBASSY REP MEET TO DISCUSS EXACTLY WHAT BDG HELICOPTER NEEDS ARE AND WHETHER PURCHASE, HIRE, OR STAND-BY CHARTERING OF THE MACHINES IS MOST SENSIBLE. KARIM VOICED AN INTEREST IN MEETING BUT SAID THAT HE MUST CHECK WITH DACCA FIRST.

4. IN MEANTIME, BDG IS CONTINUING TO SCOUT THE U.S. HELICOPTER MARKET. SIKORSKY'S REPRESENTATIVE BOB COREY PHONED JULY 18 TO INQUIRE ABOUT A BDG MISSION HERE. ACCORDING TO COREY, A BANGLADESHI TEAM, CURRENTLY IN EUROPE, IS BOUND FOR US AFTER TALKS IN UK AND FRANCE. (KARIM TOLD ARCHARD THAT BDG IS LOOKING INTO POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF ALLOUETTES). COREY CLAIMS THAT THEY ARE ALSO TALKING WITH HUGHES AIRCRAFT. IF THEY DO COME HERE, SIKORSKY WILL TRY TO SELL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 179887

THEM ITS S-58 (THE COMMERCIAL VERSION OF THE MILITARY H-34), A BIRD WHICH HAS A 16 PASSENGER OR 5,000 LB. LIFT CAPABILITY. THE AIRCRAFT SELL FOR ABOUT DOLS. 800,000 EXCLUSIVE OF SPARE PARTS. SIKORSKY, COREY SAID, SPECIALIZES IN REFURBISHING USED MILITARY HELIINTERESTED D HAS A NRDING OF PACKAGES THAT THE BDG MIGHT BE INTERESTEDIN. ACCORDING TO KARIM, THREE SIKORSKYSWERE ONCE USED IN EAST PAKISTAN AND BENGALIS LIKED FINE PERFORMANCE BUT AFTER TWO CRASHED

KILLING ALL ABOARD THEY NOW HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT
THEM. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT SALES, HELICOPTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE179887
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DBARCHARD:MRC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760280-0394
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760736/aaaabfgv.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 170069
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BDG INTEREST IN HELICOPTERS
TAGS: EAIR, EAID, MASS, BG, US
To: DACCA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006